Restructuring of the Ministry

1377. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTARCHRJEE: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to restructure the Ministry of Defence;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the time by when it will be implemented;

(d) whether a demand to implement the recommendations of Fifth Central Pay Commission regarding optimum civilisation of Service Headquarters has been received from AFHQ Associations; and

(e) if so, the action taken thereon and the time by when a decision in this regard is likely to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (c) Some proposals having a bearing on the re-organisation of Ministry of Defence are being examined in the Government.

(d) and (e) Representations from the Associations on the subject are under consideration.

Discrepancies in Recruitment

1378. DR. KARAN SINGH: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are discrepancies in recruiting requirements for the Armed Forces between various areas within the Jammu region;

(b) if so, the reasons thereof; and

(c) whether these anomalies will be removed?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (c) Recruitment in Navy and Air Force is on

all India merit basis.

As per Government policy, the minimum educational qualification for recruitment in Army as Soldier (GD) is matriculation/Xth class pass. However, to provide a fair opportunity for recruitment to citizens from backward regions/belonging to backward communities, certain special dispensation in educational qualification for recruitment as Soldier (GD) has been provided by the Government. So far as Jammu region is concerned, educational qualification as above has been relaxed to class VIII pass for the whole of the region except Kathua District and Samba Tehsil. This dispensation is valid upto 31st March 2001.

Deficiency in Design of MIG-29

1379. SHRI SATISHCHANDRA SITARAM PRADHAN: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that MIG-29 does not meet IAF standards;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the Russian manufacturers of MIG-29 accepted deficiency in design of the aircraft; and

(c) what is the present status of MIG-29?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) No, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) The aircrafts are performing satisfactorily.